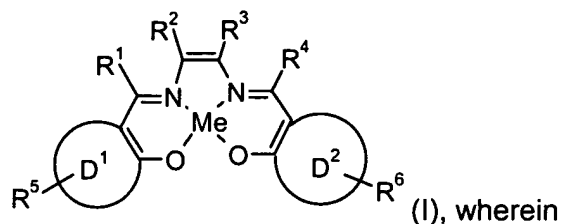


In the claims:

1. (currently amended): A metal complex of the following formula



Me is a transition metal of Sub-Group 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, ~~preferably 9, 10 or 11,~~

D¹ and D² are each independently of the other a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or ring system, which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more groups R⁵ and R⁶,

R¹ and R⁴ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a perfluoroalkyl radical, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl radical, an aryl radical or an aralkyl radical,

R² and R³ are a cyano group, or

R² and R³ together form a five to seven membered heterocyclic ring, or

R² and R³ together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron accepting substituent, or which is substituted by at least one electron donating substituent,

R⁵ and R⁶ being a halogen atom, such as fluorine, chlorine or bromine, a group -NR⁸R⁹, a group -SO₂NR⁸R⁹, wherein

R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a C₁-C₂₄alkylcarbonyl group, an alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, a C₆₋₂₄aryl-carbonyl radical or C₇₋₂₄aralkyl-carbonyl radical, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, or R⁸ and R⁹ together form a five- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring, which optionally can be interrupted by D,

a nitro group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an alkyl group, an alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an alkoxy group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an aryloxy group, an aralkyloxy group, an alkylthio group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an arylthio group, an aralkylthio group, an acyl radical, a phenyl group, an ester group, ~~such as a phosphonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid ester~~

group, a carboxamide group, a sulfamide group, an ammonium group, a carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphonic acid or phosphoric acid group or a salt thereof,

wherein at least one of the substituents R^5 and at least one of the substituents R^6 is an electron donating group, if R^2 and R^3 together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron accepting substituent,

or at least one of the substituents R^5 and at least one of the substituents R^6 is an electron accepting group, if R^2 and R^3 together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron donating substituent, wherein

D is $-\text{CO}-$; $-\text{S}-$; $-\text{SO}-$; $-\text{SO}_2-$; $-\text{O}-$; $-\text{NR}^{10}$; and

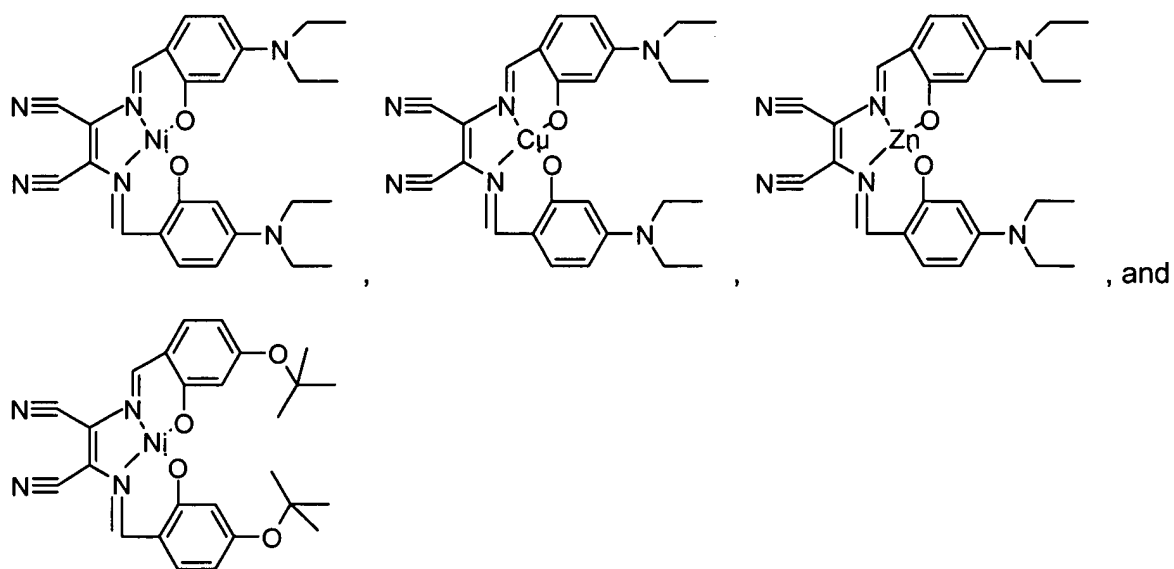
E is $-\text{OR}^{11}$; $-\text{SR}^{11}$; $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{R}^{13}$; $-\text{COR}^{14}$; $-\text{COOR}^{15}$; $-\text{CONR}^{12}\text{R}^{13}$; $-\text{CN}$; or halogen; wherein

R^{10} , R^{12} and R^{13} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group,

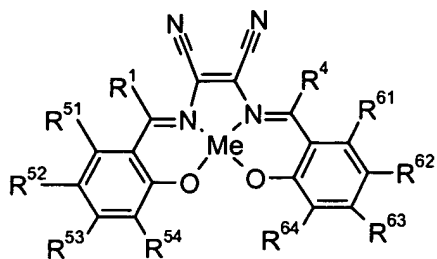
R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group,

R^{14} is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, and

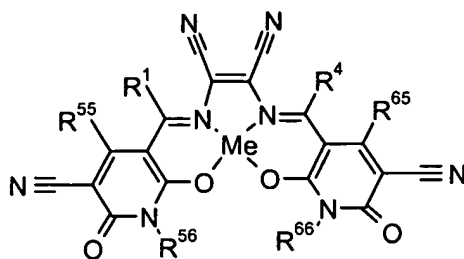
R^{15} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:



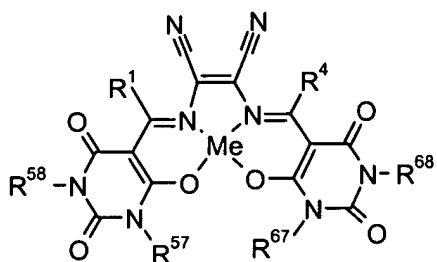
2. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 1, having the following formula



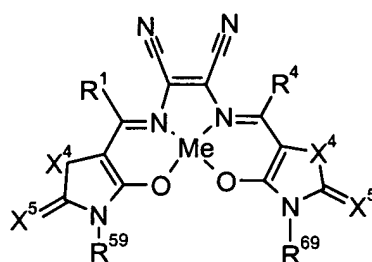
(IIa),



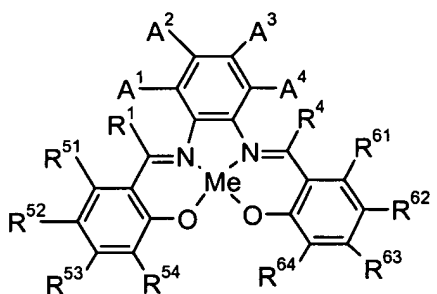
(IIb),



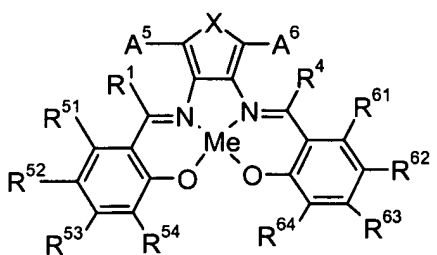
(IIc),



(IId),



(III), or



(IV), wherein

Me is Co^{3+} , ~~especially~~ Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Pt^{2+} , Co^{2+} , or Zn^{2+} ,

X is $>\text{O}$, $>\text{S}$, $>\text{S}=\text{O}$, or $>\text{SO}_2$,

A^1 , A^4 , A^5 and A^6 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkoxy radical, an alkyl radical, an alkyl radical which is interrupted one or more times by $-\text{O}-$ or by $-\text{S}-$,

at least one of A^2 and A^3 , preferably A^2 and A^3 , ~~are~~ is an electron accepting substituent, especially ~~NO_2 , a halogen atom, especially a chlorine or a bromine atom, a group $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$~~ and the other is a hydrogen atom,

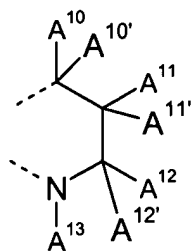
R^1 and R^4 are defined as in claim 1,

R^{51} , R^{52} , R^{54} , R^{61} , R^{62} and R^{64} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or an $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl group,

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkoxy group, an $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryloxy group, an $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{24}$ aralkyloxy group, a group $\text{-NR}^8\text{R}^9$ [[,]] or a salt thereof, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl group, an $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{24}$ aryl group, or an $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{24}$ aralkyl group, wherein D and E are as defined in claim 1,

or

R^{53} and R^{52} , R^{53} and R^{54} , R^{63} and R^{62} , and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other



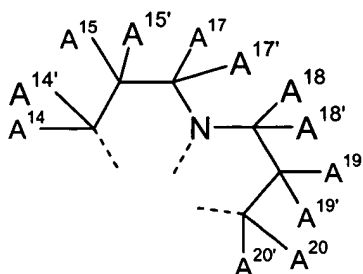
wherein A^{10} , $A^{10'}$, A^{11} , $A^{11'}$, A^{12} and $A^{12'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl group,

or

$A^{10'}$ and $A^{11'}$ together, form a double bond, and A^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl group,

or

R^{53} and R^{52} and R^{54} , and/or R^{63} and R^{62} and R^{64} are



wherein A^{14} , $A^{14'}$, A^{15} , $A^{15'}$, A^{17} , $A^{17'}$, A^{18} , $A^{18'}$, A^{19} , $A^{19'}$, A^{20} and $A^{20'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group,

R^{55} and R^{65} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group,

R^{56} , R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{66} , R^{67} , R^{68} and R^{69} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group, or a C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group, which is interrupted by one or more oxygen atoms, and

X^4 and X^5 are each independently of the other a sulfur, or oxygen atom.

3. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 2 having the formula II,

III, or IV, wherein

Me is Co^{3+} , ~~especially~~ Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Pt^{2+} , Co^{2+} , or Zn^{2+} ,

X is $>O$, $>S$, $>S=O$, or $>SO_2$,

A^1 , A^4 , A^5 and A^6 are a hydrogen atom,

A^2 and A^3 are $-NO_2$,

R^1 and R^4 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a perfluoro C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical,

R^{51} , R^{52} , R^{54} , R^{61} , R^{62} and R^{64} are a hydrogen atom,

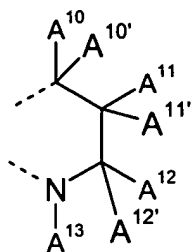
or

R^{51} and R^{52} together, and/or R^{61} and R^{62} together, form an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl ring,

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy group, a group $-NR^8R^9$, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group, a group $-(CH_2)_n-OH$, a group $-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-R^{16}$, where n is a number from the range 1-9 and R^{16} is H or C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, or a salt thereof,

or

R^{53} and R^{52} , R^{53} and R^{54} , R^{63} and R^{62} , and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other



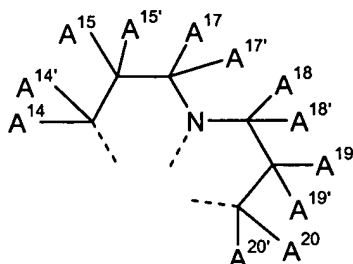
wherein A^{10} , $A^{10'}$, A^{11} , $A^{11'}$, A^{12} and $A^{12'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group,

or

$A^{10'}$ and $A^{11'}$ together, form a double bond, A^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group,

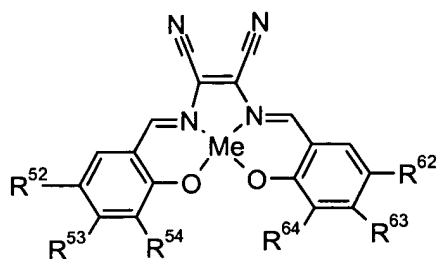
or

R^{53} and R^{52} and R^{54} , and/or R^{63} and R^{62} and R^{64} are

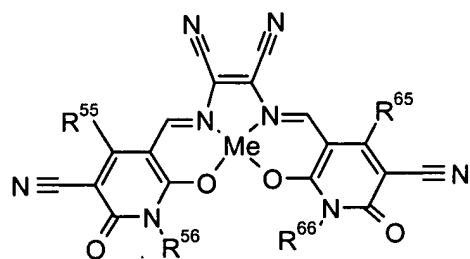


wherein A^{14} , $A^{14'}$, A^{15} , $A^{15'}$, A^{17} , $A^{17'}$, A^{18} , $A^{18'}$, A^{19} , $A^{19'}$, A^{20} and $A^{20'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group.

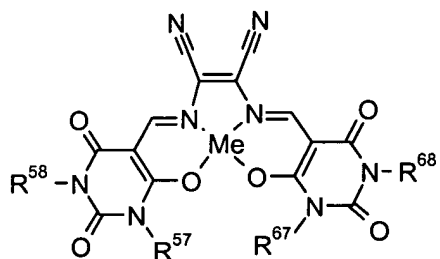
4. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 3, having the formula



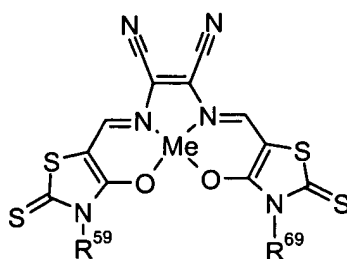
(IIa'),



(IIb'),



(IIc'),



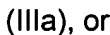
(IId'),

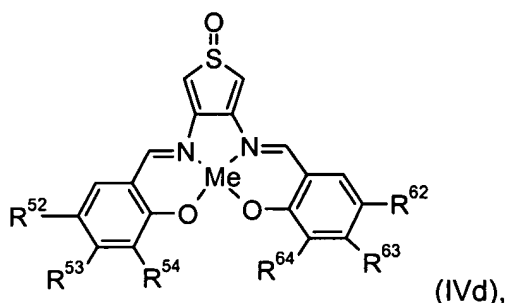
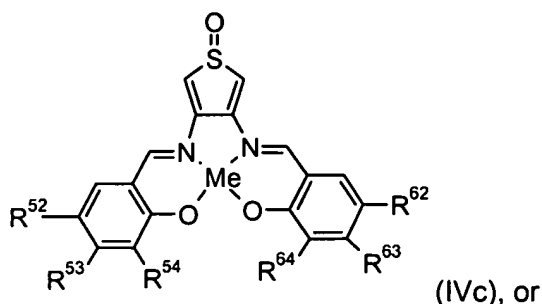


wherein X^1 is a group -O-, -S-, or $-NR^{200}$ -, wherein R^{200} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group,

R⁵⁵ and R⁶⁵ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C₁-C₁₈alkyl group,

R⁵⁶, R⁵⁷, R⁵⁸, R⁵⁹, R⁶⁶, R⁶⁷, R⁶⁸ and R⁶⁹ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₁₈alkyl group, or a C₁-C₁₈alkyl group, which is interrupted by one or more oxygen atoms,





wherein

Me is Co^{3+} , especially Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Pt^{2+} , Co^{2+} , or Zn^{2+} ,

R^1 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_1 - C_4 perfluoroalkyl,

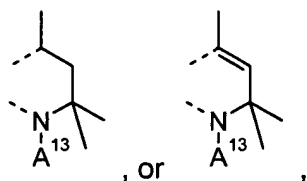
R^{52} , R^{54} , R^{62} and R^{64} are a hydrogen atom,

or

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy group, a group $-\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group, a group $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{OH}$, a group $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{R}^{16}$, where n is a number from the range 1-9 and R^{16} is H or C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, or a salt thereof,

or

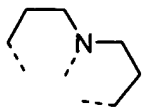
R^{53} and R^{52} , R^{53} and R^{54} , R^{63} and R^{62} , and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other a group of formula



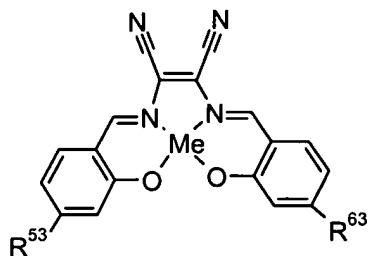
wherein

A^{13} a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group,

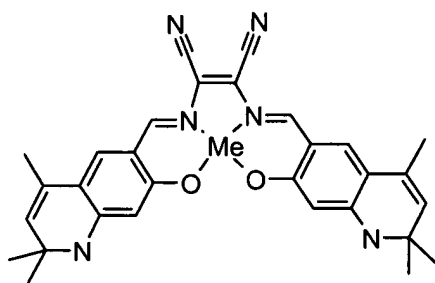
or R⁵³ and R⁵² and R⁵⁴, and/or R⁶³ and R⁶² and R⁶⁴ are a group of formula



5. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 4 of the following structure:



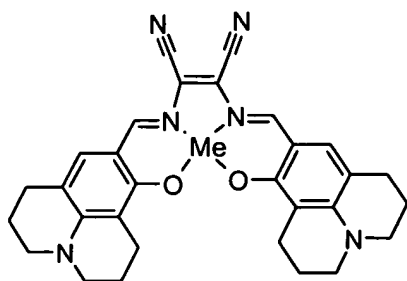
Compound	R ⁵³ = R ⁶³	Me
A-1	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Ni ²⁺
A-2	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Cu ²⁺
A-3	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Co ²⁺
A-4	-OH	Ni ²⁺
A-5	-OH	Cu ²⁺
A-6	-OH	Co ²⁺
A-7	-ONa	Ni ²⁺
A-8	-ONa	Cu ²⁺
A-9	-ONa	Co ²⁺



A-10 (Me = Ni²⁺)

A-11 (Me = Cu²⁺)

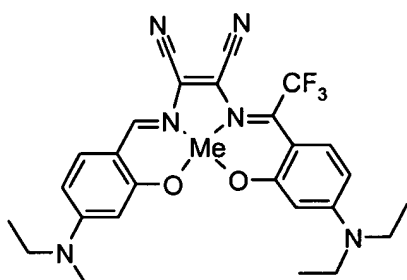
A-12 (Me = Co²⁺)



A-13 (Me = Ni²⁺)

A-14 (Me = Cu²⁺)

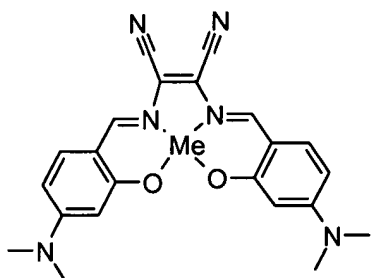
A-15 (Me = Co²⁺)



A-16 (Me = Ni²⁺)

A-17 (Me = Cu²⁺)

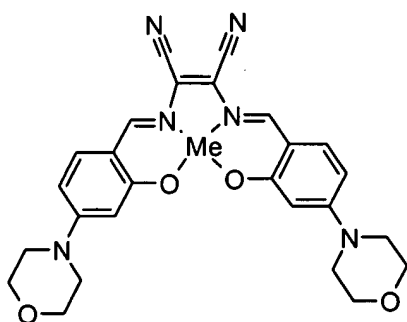
A-18 (Me = Co²⁺)



A-19 (Me = Ni²⁺)

A-20 (Me = Cu²⁺)

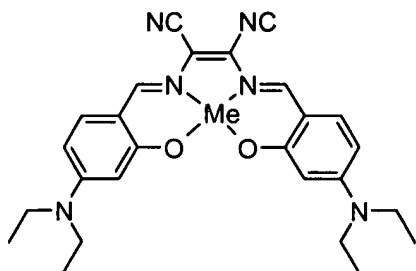
A-21 (Me = Co²⁺)



A-22 (Me = Ni²⁺)

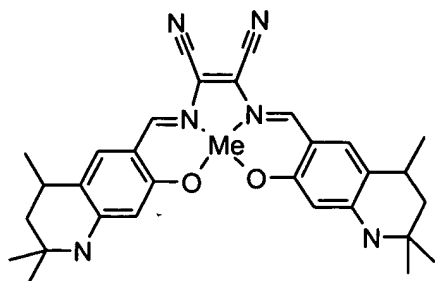
A-23 (Me = Cu²⁺)

A-24 (Me = Co²⁺)



A-25 (Me = Cu²⁺)

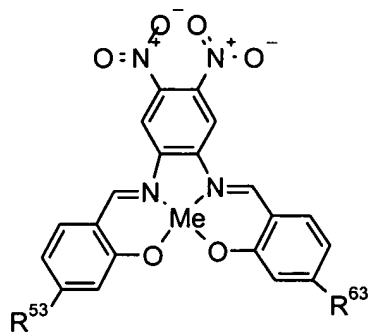
A-26 (Me = Co²⁺)



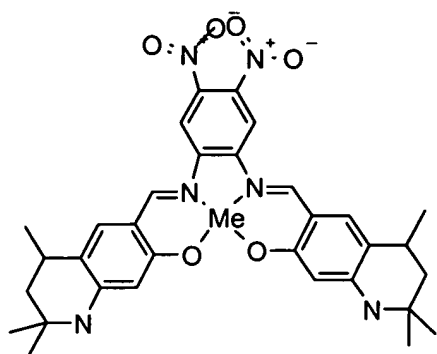
A-27 (Me = Ni²⁺)

A-28 (Me = Cu²⁺)

A-29 (Me = Co²⁺)



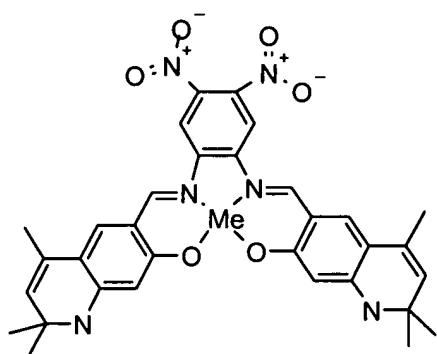
Compound	R ⁵³ = R ⁶³	Me
B-1	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Ni ²⁺
B-2	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Cu ²⁺
B-3	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Co ²⁺
B-4	-OH	Ni ²⁺
B-5	-OH	Cu ²⁺
B-6	-OH	Co ²⁺
B-7	-ONa	Ni ²⁺
B-8	-ONa	Cu ²⁺
B-9	-ONa	Co ²⁺
B-10	-ONH ₄	Ni ²⁺
B-11	-ONH ₄	Cu ²⁺
B-12	-ONH ₄	Co ²⁺



B-13 (Me = Ni²⁺)

B-14 (Me = Cu²⁺)

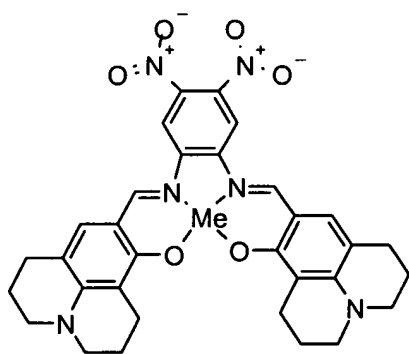
B-15 (Me = Co²⁺)



B-16 (Me = Ni²⁺)

B-17 (Me = Cu²⁺)

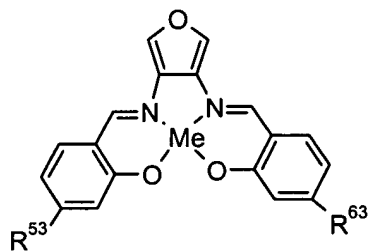
B-18 (Me = Co²⁺)



B-19 (Me = Ni²⁺)

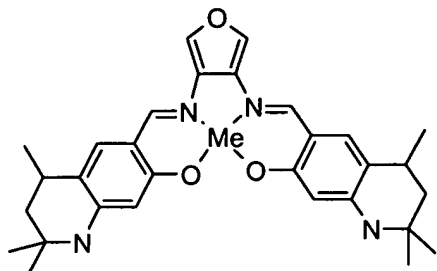
B-20 (Me = Cu²⁺)

B-21 (Me = Co²⁺)



Compound	R ⁵³ = R ⁶³	Me
C-1	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Ni ²⁺
C-2	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Cu ²⁺
C-3	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Co ²⁺

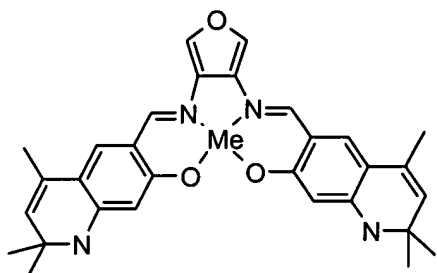
C-4	-OH	Ni ²⁺
C-5	-OH	Cu ²⁺
C-6	-OH	Co ²⁺



C-7 (Me = Ni²⁺)

C-8 (Me = Cu²⁺)

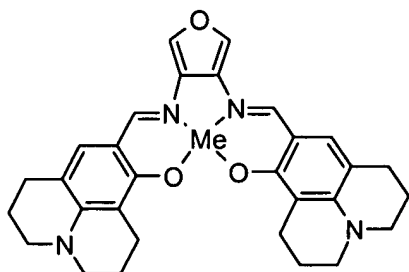
C-9 (Me = Co²⁺)



C-10 (Me = Ni²⁺)

C-11 (Me = Cu²⁺)

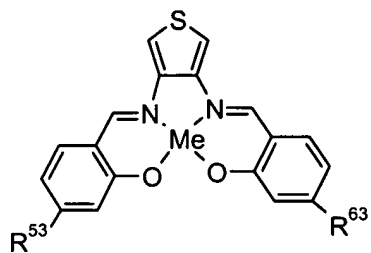
C-12 (Me = Co²⁺)



C-13 (Me = Ni²⁺)

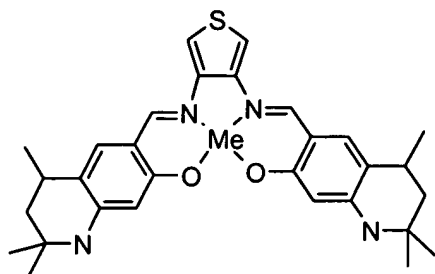
C-14 (Me = Cu²⁺)

C-15 (Me = Co²⁺)



Compound	R ⁵³ = R ⁶³	Me
D-1	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Ni ²⁺
D-2	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Cu ²⁺
C-3	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Co ²⁺
D-4	-OH	Ni ²⁺

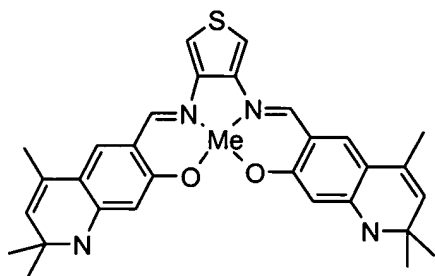
D-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
D-6	-OH	Co^{2+}



D-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})

D-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})

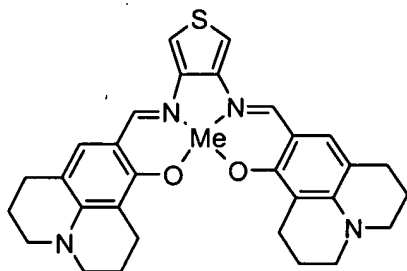
D-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



D-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})

D-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})

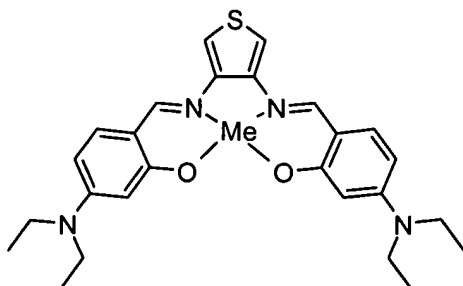
D-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



D-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})

D-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})

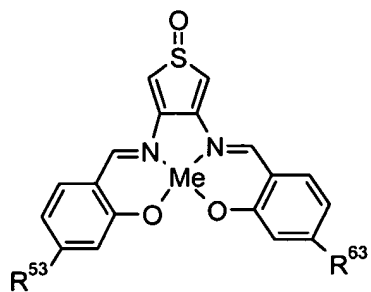
D-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



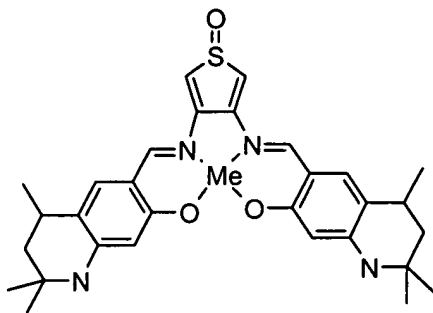
D-16 (Me = Ni^{2+})

D-17 (Me = Cu^{2+})

D-18 (Me = Co^{2+})



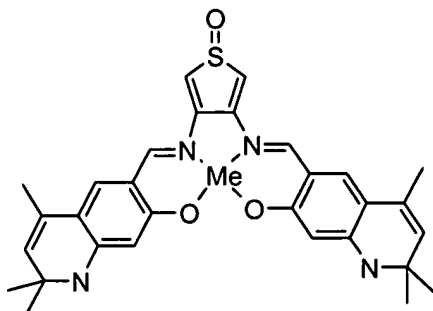
Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
E-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
E-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
E-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
E-4	$-OH$	Ni^{2+}
E-5	$-OH$	Cu^{2+}
E-6	$-OH$	Co^{2+}



E-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})

E-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})

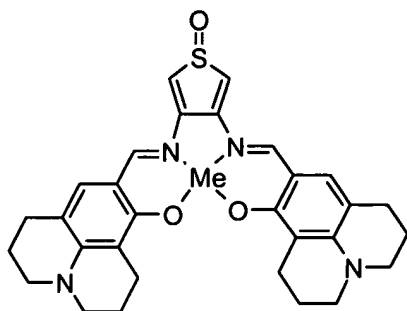
E-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



E-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})

E-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})

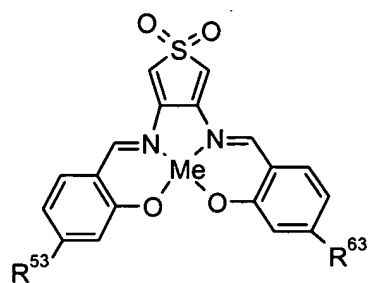
E-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



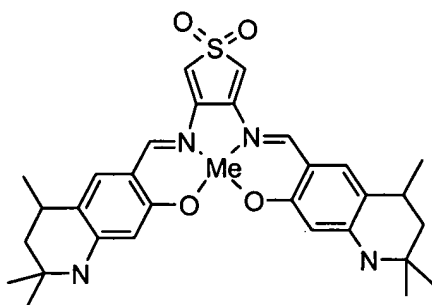
E-13 (Me = Ni²⁺)

E-14 (Me = Cu²⁺)

E-15 (Me = Co²⁺)



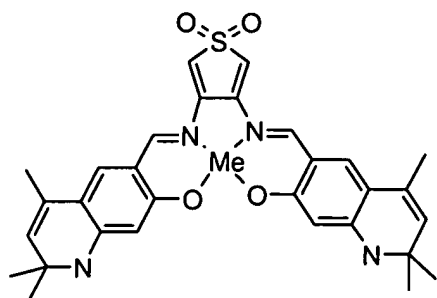
Compound	R ⁵³ = R ⁶³	Me
F-1	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Ni ²⁺
F-2	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Cu ²⁺
F-3	-N(CH ₂) ₂ OH	Co ²⁺
F-4	-OH	Ni ²⁺
F-5	-OH	Cu ²⁺
F-6	-OH	Co ²⁺



F-7 (Me = Ni²⁺)

F-8 (Me = Cu²⁺)

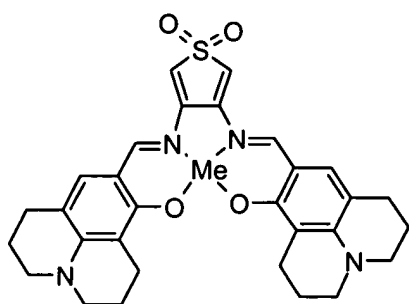
F-9 (Me = Co²⁺)



F-10 (Me = Ni²⁺)

F-11 (Me = Cu²⁺)

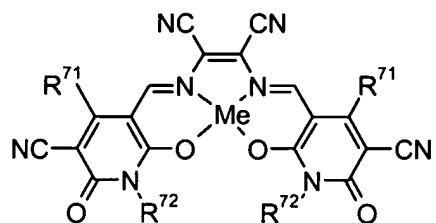
F-12 (Me = Co²⁺)



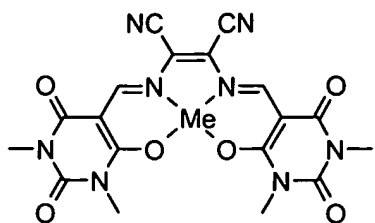
F-13 (Me = Ni²⁺)

F-14 (Me = Cu²⁺)

F-15 (Me = Co²⁺)



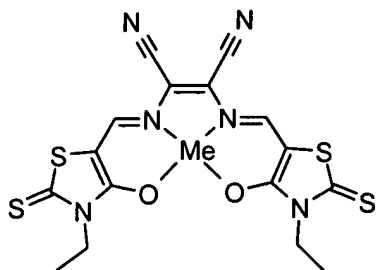
Compound	R ⁷¹	R ⁷²	Me
G-1	-CH ₃	-CH ₃	Ni ²⁺
G-2	-CH ₃	-CH ₃	Cu ²⁺
G-3	-CH ₃	-CH ₃	Co ²⁺
G-4	-CH ₃	-(CH ₂) ₃ OCH(CH ₃) ₂	Ni ²⁺
G-5	-CH ₃	-(CH ₂) ₃ OCH(CH ₃) ₂	Cu ²⁺
G-6	-CH ₃	-(CH ₂) ₃ OCH(CH ₃) ₂	Co ²⁺
G-7	-CH ₃	H	Ni ²⁺
G-8	-CH ₃	H	Cu ²⁺
G-9	-CH ₃	H	Co ²⁺



H-1 (Me = Ni²⁺)

H-2 (Me = Cu²⁺)

H-3 (Me = Co²⁺)



I-1 (Me = Ni²⁺)

I-2 (Me = Cu²⁺) or

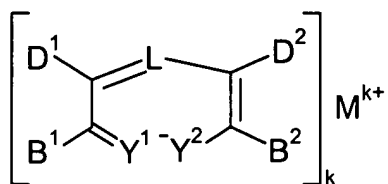
I-3 (Me = Co²⁺)

6. (currently amended): A composition, comprising

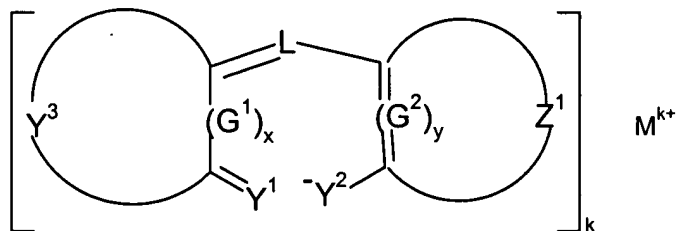
- (a) a metal complex according to ~~any one of claim~~ **[[s]] 1 to 5**, and
- (b) a dye.

7. (original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein

Me in formula I, II, III or IV is Ni²⁺, Cu²⁺, or Co²⁺ and the dye is a oxonol dye of formula



(Va) or



(Vb),

wherein D¹, D², B¹ and B² are in each case a substituent; Y³ and Z¹ are in each case a group of atoms necessary for the formation of a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; G¹ and G² are in each case a group of atoms necessary for the formation of a chain having conjugated double bonds; Y¹ is =O, =NR¹⁰⁹ or =C(CN)₂, R¹⁰⁹ being a substituent; Y² is -O, -NR¹⁰⁹ or -C(CN)₂, R¹⁰⁹ being a

substituent; L is a methine group, which may be substituted, or a group by means of which a polymethine group is completed, it being possible for 3, 5 or 7 methine groups to be connected in order to form a chain having conjugated double bonds, which chain may be substituted, x and y are 0 or 1, M^{k+} is an organic or inorganic cation, and k is an integer from 1 to 10

8. (currently amended): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and at least one recording layer, wherein the recording layer comprises a metal complex according to ~~any one of claim [[s]] 1 to 5 or a composition according to claim 6 or 7.~~

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): A method of producing an optical recording medium, wherein a solution of a metal complex according to ~~any one of claim [[s]] 1 to 5 or a composition according to claim 6 or 7~~ in a solvent, ~~especially a non-halogenated solvent,~~ is applied to a substrate having depressions.

11. (new): A method of producing an optical recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the solvent is a non-halogenated solvent.

12. (new): A metal complex according to claim 1, wherein Me is a transition metal of Sub-Group 9, 10 or 11, when R^5 or R^6 is a halogen atom it is fluorine, chlorine or bromine, and when R^5 or R^6 is an ester group it is a phosphonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid ester group.

13. (new): A metal complex according to claim 2, wherein Me is Cu^{2+} .

14. (new): A metal complex according to claim 2, wherein at least one of A^2 and A^3 , is an electron accepting substituent selected from $-NO_2$, chlorine, bromine and a group $-SO_2-NR^8R^9$ and the other is a hydrogen atom

15. (new): A metal complex according to claim 3, wherein Me is Cu^{2+} .

16. (new): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and at least one recording layer, wherein the recording layer comprises a composition according to claim 6.

17. **(new)**: A method of producing an optical recording medium, wherein a solution of a composition according to claim 6 in a solvent, is applied to a substrate having depressions.
18. **(new)**: A method of producing an optical recording medium according to claim 17, wherein the solvent is a non-halogenated solvent.
19. **(new)**: A color filter or printing ink comprising a metal complex according to claim 1.
20. **(new)** A color filter or printing ink comprising a composition according to claim 6.